

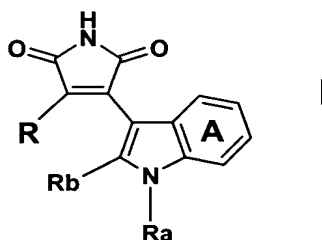
## Amendments to the Specification

(a) Below the title on Page 1, please add the following new paragraph:

This application is a continuation of Application No. 10/007,368 filed November 5, 2001 which is incorporated herein by reference, and which claims the benefit of Provisional Application No. 60/246,400 filed November 7, 2000 and of Provisional Application No. 60/283,705 filed April 13, 2001.

(b) Please replace the paragraph bridging Pages 1 and 2, starting with "More particularly . . ." on Page 1, line 4 and ending on Page 2, line 12 with "... ring A is optionally substituted", with the following amended paragraph:

More particularly the present invention provides a compound of formula I

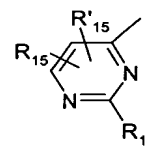
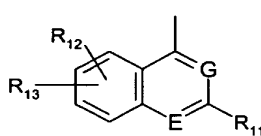
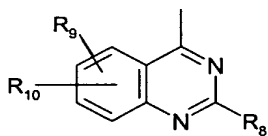
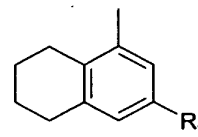
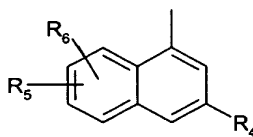
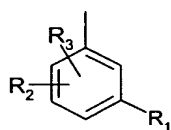


wherein

R<sub>a</sub> is H; C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl; or C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl substituted by OH, NH<sub>2</sub>, NHC<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl or N(di-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)<sub>2</sub> N(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)<sub>2</sub>;

R<sub>b</sub> is H; or C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl;

R is a radical of formula (a), (b), (c), (d), (e) or (f)



wherein

each of R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>4</sub>, R<sub>7</sub>, R<sub>8</sub>, R<sub>11</sub> and R<sub>14</sub> is OH; SH; a heterocyclic residue; NR<sub>16</sub>R<sub>17</sub> wherein each of R<sub>16</sub> and R<sub>17</sub>, independently, is H or C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl or R<sub>16</sub> and R<sub>17</sub> form together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound a heterocyclic residue; or a radical of formula α



wherein X is a direct bond, O, S or NR<sub>18</sub> wherein R<sub>18</sub> is H or C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl,

$R_c$  is  $C_{1-4}$ alkylene or  $C_{1-4}$ alkylene wherein one  $CH_2$  is replaced by  $CR_xR_y$  wherein one of  $R_x$  and  $R_y$  is H and the other is  $CH_3$ , each of  $R_x$  and  $R_y$  is  $CH_3$  or  $R_x$  and  $R_y$  form together  $-CH_2-CH_2-$ , and

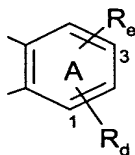
Y is bound to the terminal carbon atom and is selected from OH, a heterocyclic residue and  $-NR_{19}R_{20}$  wherein each of  $R_{19}$  and  $R_{20}$  independently is H,  $C_{3-6}$ cycloalkyl,  $C_{3-6}$ cycloalkyl- $C_{1-4}$ alkyl, aryl- $C_{1-4}$ alkyl or  $C_{1-4}$ alkyl optionally substituted on the terminal carbon atom by OH, or  $R_{19}$  and  $R_{20}$  form together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound a heterocyclic residue;

each of  $R_2, R_3, R_5, R_6, R_9, R_{10}, R_{12}, R_{13}, R_{15}$  and  $R'_{15}$ , independently, is H, halogen,  $C_{1-4}$ alkyl,  $CF_3$ ,

OH, SH,  $NH_2$ ,  $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy,  $C_{1-4}$ alkylthio,  $NHC_{1-4}$ alkyl,  $N(di-C_{1-4}alkyl)_2$ ,  $N(C_{1-4}alkyl)_2$  or CN;  
either E is  $-N=$  and G is  $-CH=$  or E is  $-CH=$  and G is  $-N=$ ; and  
ring A is optionally substituted.

(c) Please replace the fourth full paragraph on Page 3, starting with "When ring A is substituted ..." on line 10 and ending on line 17 with "... or  $N(di-C_{1-4}alkyl)_2$ ." with the following paragraph:

When ring A is substituted, it may be mono- or polysubstituted, preferably monosubstituted, the substituent(s) being selected from the group consisting of e.g. halogen, OH,  $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy, e.g.  $OCH_3$ ,  $C_{1-4}$ alkyl, e.g.  $CH_3$ ,  $NO_2$ ,  $CF_3$ ,  $NH_2$ ,  $NHC_{1-4}alkyl$ ,  $N(di-C_{1-4}alkyl)_2$ ,  $N(C_{1-4}alkyl)_2$  and CN. For example, ring A may be a residue of formula



wherein

$R_d$  is H;  $C_{1-4}$ alkyl; or halogen; and

$R_e$  is OH;  $NO_2$ ;  $NH_2$ ;  $NHC_{1-4}alkyl$ ; or  $N(di-C_{1-4}alkyl)_2$ ,  $N(C_{1-4}alkyl)_2$ .